



Press release - 22 April 2008

First policy committee meeting of EUROMOT the European network of cross-border local authorities in Lille on 11 April 2008

The first policy committee meeting of **EUROMOT¹**, the **European network of cross-border local authorities**, was held in Lille on 11 April 2008, attended by its president **Pierre Mauroy**, president of the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT), its secretary **Alain Lamassoure**, MOT vice-president, **Michel Delebarre**, president of Dunkerque Urban Community and first vice-president of the Committee of the Regions, and two representatives of the **City Twins** and **Eixo Atlântico** networks.

The objective of EUROMOT² is to **help cross-border territories to structure and organise themselves** on either side of the border.

These **territories** are areas of employment and daily living which generate a large flows of movement, exchanges and daily ongoing cooperation. Political leaders need to take up the challenges faced by territories which suffer from **substantial economic and social imbalances** and which are not widely recognised.

EUROMOT aims to form a **strong European network** bringing together cross-border local authorities in Europe in order to:

- exchange and communicate their proposed **responses about the needs of their inhabitants**,
- ensure **that cross-border cooperation is taken into account more effectively in National and European policies**.

Adoption of the “Manifesto for cross-border cooperation in Europe”

The first EUROMOT publication, the “Manifesto for cross-border cooperation in Europe”, was presented by EUROMOT president Pierre Mauroy and adopted. It puts forward **concrete recommendations for advancing cross-border cooperation in Europe**. These recommendations are going to be submitted officially to National and European authorities, in particular within the framework of the **French presidency of the European Union**. They cover the **following twelve topics**: cross-border territories, cross-border conurbations, cross-border rural and natural territories, maritime cooperation, economic development, employment and training, health, environment, public transport, culture and territorial integration, legal instruments of cooperation, training in cross-border professions.

See below the 12 emblematic recommendations taken out from the many included in the Manifesto, which is available on the website www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu.

Working priorities

Two working priorities were defined for EUROMOT:

- **Positioning at a European level which is intended to be transversal** between the local authorities and the states, in order to deliver the message of project stakeholders to the national and European institutions concerned. The objective is to overcome obstacles and move forward on possible cooperation actions. In this context a strategic alliance was signed on 8 November between EUROMOT and the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR).
- **Direct assistance to authorities and project stakeholders**. The work of EUROMOT will include operational assistance for projects, studies, training and research on cross-border cooperation, networking and interfacing from a local level to a European level.

¹ EUROMOT includes the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (network of local authorities and their groupings involving France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Andorra), Eixo Atlântico (network of border towns involving the Northern region of Portugal and Galicia in Spain) and City Twins (network of twin cities involving Germany, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Sweden, Finland and Russia).

² EUROMOT was established on 8 November 2007 at the Lille European conference on “Cross-border territories: Day-to-day Europe”.

Manifesto for cross-border cooperation in Europe **Twelve emblematic recommendations**

Cross-border territories

Encourage the establishment and networking of local statistical monitoring bodies on the scale of the cross-border territory.

Cross-border conurbations

Make cross-border conurbations places of convergence of national and European policies within the framework of European strategic implementations and network them at European level.

Cross-border rural and natural territories

Organise the governance of cross-border rural territories and natural spaces to manage biodiversity and natural resources on the cross-border scale and to develop human activities, in particular by pooling public services.

Maritime cooperation

Develop assistance for the definition and implementation of joint local maritime cooperation projects.

Economic development

Encourage the setting-up of cross-border development agencies involving local authorities, businesses and research centres.

Employment and training

Develop the EURES-T system (involving employers, trade unions and public employment services) on all internal borders of the EU to facilitate worker mobility and encourage the development of businesses in cross-border living areas.

Health

Contribute to the emergence of true cross-border health communities linked with cross-border territory projects.

Environment

Encourage joint management of the cross-border environment with regard to pollution, waste, and prevention of natural and technological risks (flooding, fire, water quality, etc.).

Public transport

Organise dialogue and cross-border governance of local cross-border transport, and create an awareness of its issues and the necessity for funding at local, national and European levels.

Culture and territorial integration

Encourage the emergence of lean cross-border cultural cooperation platforms able to bring together local authorities and the actors concerned to implement cultural action programmes, components of the territory project in their own right.

Legal instruments of cooperation

Develop operational assistance for the setting-up of cross-border projects and in particular for the governance structures of cross-border territory projects, and network their users to encourage exchange of good practices and transfer of know-how.

Training in cross-border professions

Promote the establishment and development of training and consultancy bodies such as "Euro Institutes"; network them to introduce a "EUROMOT" label certifying the quality of training courses in and on cross-border topics.

These recommendations were produced by the 12 workshops organised for the European conference in Lille. The workshops were prepared over a period of one year by specialised working groups on each topic, including representatives of territorial authorities, regional, national and European administrations, companies and civil society, as well as university experts, from all over Europe. This document is published in French, English and German.

For further information and to download this document, go to www.espaces-transfrontaliers.eu.

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